

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 12-17 are now pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephonic interview of November 1, 2006, to Applicant's representative, Jason A. Heist. In the telephonic interview, it was discussed whether claims 3 and 4 or claims 4 and 5 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. This is because the cover page of the Office Action indicates that claims 3 and 4 are objected to, while page 4 of the Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 5 are objected to. To clarify this matter, the Examiner stated that claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Regardless, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 12-15 are allowed. Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the allowance of these claims. The Examiner, as stated above, also indicates that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 4 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 3, 4, and each corresponding dependent claim should now be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-075826. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is cancelled. Further, claims 5 and 6 are amended to depend from claim 3. As stated above, claim 3 is rewritten in independent form and includes allowable subject matter. As such, claims 5 and 6 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-075826 in view of JP 10-066913. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is cancelled. This rejection, therefore, is moot.

NEW CLAIMS

New claim 16 and 17 are added. These claims depend from claim 4, addressed above. Claims 16 and 17 should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 4. Favorable consideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

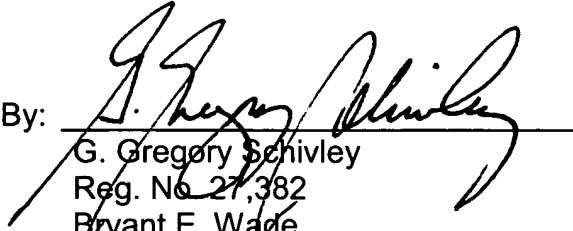
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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